

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following:

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 2 illustrates a UDP datagram 200 employed in one embodiment of the invention. Datagram 200 consists of a header 201 and a payload 202. The header 201 may contain a source port field ~~209~~ 210, a destination port field ~~211~~ 212, and a length field ~~210~~ 211. In this embodiment, the checksum field 209 has been set to zero, and a plurality of independent checksums 203, 205, and 207 have been calculated for a corresponding plurality of data segments 204, 206, and 208, respectively. Setting the UDP checksum field 209 to zero effectively turns off the checksum functionality, thereby ensuring that all data segments 204, 206, and 208 within the UDP packet are transmitted through the transport layer to the application layer or other networking layer defined above the transport layer. At the application layer or other networking layer, the checksum for each data segment is independently validated, and only those individual data segments which are invalid are discarded.